104-10129-10359

SECRET

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The Weather
District and vicinity—Variable cloudiness, windy and cold tonight and tomorrow; chance of scattered light snow flurries. High in low 40s, low tonight in mid or upper 20s. Today's low, 30 at 5:15 a.m.; high, 40 at 11:30 a.m.

Full Report on Page B-4

The Evening Star
WITH SUNDAY MORNING E

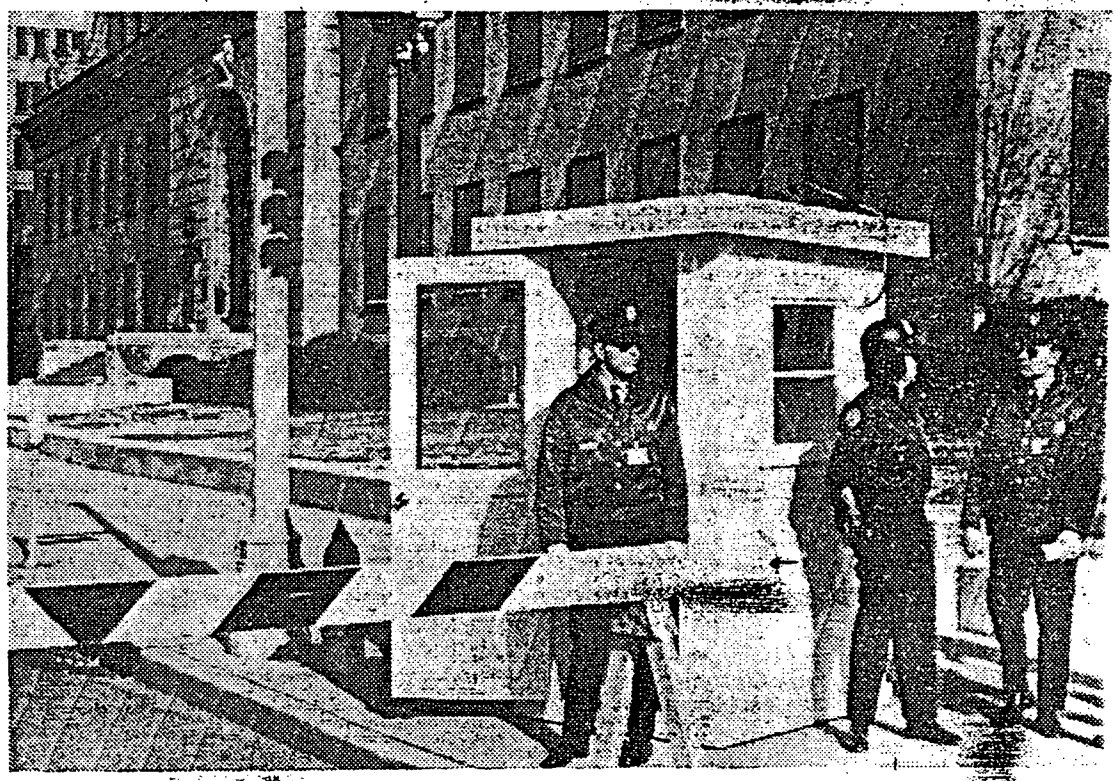
117th Year. No. 69.

Copyright © 1969
The Evening Star Newspaper Co.

WASHINGTON, D. C., MONDAY, MAR

Ray Pleads Guilty

JFK ACT RELEASE



Tight security guards James Earl Ray's court appearance in Memphis to

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL

NO. | FILE NO. | TYPE | REFERENCE DOCUMENT | PAGE | ANALYSIS* OR CHARGEOUT

(When Filled In)
SECRET

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT

ing Star
ING EDITION

HOME DELIVERY

MARCH 10, 1969—42 PAGES Phone LI. 3-5000 10 Cents

y to Killing King

—Associated Press

his today.

Makes a Deal For Senfence Of 99 Years

Trial Is Launched After All Jurors Agree to Penalty

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (UPI)—James Earl Ray, indicated he was part of an assassination conspiracy, pleaded guilty today to the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and went on trial immediately.

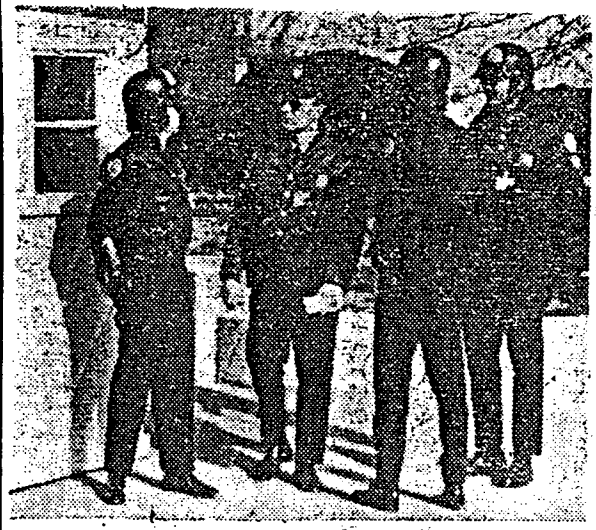
Ray made the guilty plea in return for a guaranteed sentence of 99 years in prison, rather than take the chance of being convicted and sentenced to die had he gone on with his scheduled April 7 trial.

A jury of 12 men, two of them Negroes, was selected from the first 12 names on the jury list and the trial started. A jury must try cases involving the guilty plea in Tennessee, since the jury sets the penalty. All 12 jurors agreed to the deal for a 99-year sentence.

Lawyers Deny Conspiracy

Ray's attorney, Percy Foreman, and prosecutor Phil M.

JAMES EARL RAY



—Associated Press

appearance in Memphis today.

TY	FILE NO.	NO.

Trial Is Launched After All Jurors Agree to Penalty

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (UPI)—James Earl Ray, indicated he was part of an assassination conspiracy, pleaded guilty today to the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and went on trial immediately.

Ray made the guilty plea in return for a guaranteed sentence of 99 years in prison, rather than take the chance of being convicted and sentenced to die had he gone on with his scheduled April 7 trial.

A jury of 12 men, two of them Negroes, was selected from the first 12 names on the jury list and the trial started. A jury must try cases involving the guilty plea in Tennessee, since the jury sets the penalty. All 12 jurors agreed to the deal for a 99-year sentence.

Lawyers Deny Conspiracy

Ray's attorney, Percy Foreman, and prosecutor Phil M. Canale both told the jury that they were convinced Ray alone killed King with a rifle shot last April 4, and there was no conspiracy.

At that point Ray stood up.

"Your honor, I'd like to say something. I agree with all these stipulations, but I don't agree with these theories on the conspiracy."

Judge W. Preston Battle asked Ray if he was trying to change his guilty plea. Ray said, "No, sir," and spoke no more about the conspiracy.

Waives Appeal Rights

Ray waived all rights for appeal, for a new trial or for any other legal maneuvers in exchange for the 99-year sentence —which he said was all that had been promised him.

Foreman asked Friday for a hearing, and rumors that Ray would switch his plea to guilty had been prevalent since then. Ray entered the courtroom today wearing the same dark blue checked suit and light blue shirt which he wore at earlier hearings.

The white-haired Foreman—who claims to have lost only one client to the electric chair —arose and announced, "Your honor, we have a petition for a waiver of trial and a change of plea to guilty."

Battle told Ray that "this is a compromise and settlement on a plea of guilty to murder in the first degree and 99 years in the penitentiary.

"Is this what you want to do?" Battle asked

JAMES EARL RAY

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT